



COVID-19 Testing Resources for Children

There are several tests available that can tell if your child has COVID-19. These include PCR and antigen tests. They use samples that come from the nose or mouth. Some tests you can do at home and others are collected by a medical provider. If you need a test for school or sports league, to travel, or to go to a venue, be sure to get the test that meets the requirements. If you need a test to end isolation, an antigen test is best. Visit ph.lacounty.gov/covidtests to learn about the different types of COVID-19 tests, when to test, and what your test results mean.

Where to get a test

If your child has symptoms, it is best to get a test from their doctor or local health center. Call 2-1-1 or visit [211LA](https://211LA.org) if you need help finding a doctor. You can also find a health center near you by entering your zip code on [the HRSA.gov website](https://theHRSA.gov).

There are many other places to get a test:



- **A pharmacy.** Many pharmacies offer COVID-19 tests. Call or visit the website for details.
 - **Walmart** with [Quest Diagnostics](https://questdiagnostics.com) – for ages 2 and up
 - [CVS Health](https://www.cvs.com) and [Walgreens](https://www.walgreens.com) – for ages 3 and up
 - [Rite Aid](https://www.riteaid.com) – for ages 4 and up
 - **Independent pharmacies** – visit doineedacovid19test.com



- **Your child's school or youth sports league.** Many schools and school districts provide free COVID-19 testing to students, employees, and volunteers. Contact your child's school or sports league to see if testing is available and how to access it.



- **A County-sponsored community location.**
 - If you don't have health insurance, you can get a free COVID-19 test at a community location regardless of your immigration status.
 - If you have health insurance, please contact your doctor or health plan to get tested. Insured individuals can go to a community location but must provide health insurance information.
 - Many sites test children of any age. Visit covid19.lacounty.gov/testing or text 844-833-1334 to find a location near you. Be sure to confirm that they test children or if they require an appointment. If you need help, you can also call 2-1-1 to arrange a test.



- **Other testing site.** Some sites are run by private companies, private healthcare systems, or local cities, and are not vetted by LA County.
 - They may offer testing for children. Ask about age limitations.
 - They may charge for a test. Ask in advance if there are any charges or fees.
 - They also may ask for information such as a government ID or insurance.

Test at home



- **Home collection kits (PCR test)** – you collect the sample, and it is tested in a laboratory. Test kits are available for people ages 4+ who live in LA County and have symptoms or think they were exposed to COVID-19. Results are usually available 24-48 hours after the lab receives the test. The kits, testing, and mailing are all free through a County program:
 - **Order a kit online and have it mailed to you.** You do the test and return it by mail to the lab.
 - **Order a kit online and pick it up at a participating library.** You do the test and drop it off at the library. Click [here](#) for information or call 626-350-0537 or 626-434-3596.
 - **Pick-up a test kit** from a location within LA County. Collect the sample at home or in your car and return it to the same site.

For details, visit covid19.lacounty.gov/testing.

- **Self-tests (rapid over the counter tests)** – you collect the sample and do the test yourself. Results usually take 15-30 minutes. Most of these tests are antigen tests.
 - Pick up a free kit from a [Public Health vaccination site](#). Call the DPH Vaccine Call Center at 833-540-0473 for hours and locations.
 - Check if your local community center offers free test kits.
 - Buy kits from a pharmacy, online, or a store such as a supermarket or big box store

Most people with health insurance, including Medi-Cal, can get self-tests **at no cost**. Contact your health plan for instructions. If you go to a store and they don't take your insurance keep your receipts. Most health plans will reimburse some or all of the cost. For details, see [CMS at home over the counter webpage](#).

TIPS!

- Check the FDA's [At-Home OTC COVID-19 Diagnostic Tests](#) website to see if your test is authorized. Some self-tests have age limitations.
- The expiration date on your kit may have been extended.

Visit ph.lacounty.gov/covidtests and click on "self-tests" to learn more, including how to check expiration dates.



Beware of COVID-19 testing scams and fraud

The Federal Trade Commission explains [how to avoid buying fake test kits online](#) or get tricked into using [scam test sites](#).

Visit the DPH [COVID-19 scams and fraud webpage](#) to find out about common COVID-19 scams and fraud.

If you think you found a fake COVID-19 pop-up site or bought a fake COVID-19 test, please report it to the **Department of Consumer and Business Affairs** at bit.ly/DCBAHelp or 1-800 593-8222.